REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 8, 2003 (Paper No. 7). Claims 17 to 31 are now in the application, of which Claims 17, 22 and 27 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As requested, Figure 24 has been amended to insert a "Prior Art" legend.

A new title has been selected.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,341,166 (Garr); and Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 were rejected under § 103(a) over Garr in view of U.S. Patent 6,400,280 (Osakabe). In response, the rejected claims have been cancelled and new Claims 17 to 31 substituted therefor, which clarify that in the controlled apparatus of the present invention, the controlled apparatus selects either itself or a s second controlled apparatus as destination of a received command. The rejections are therefore traversed, as detailed more fully below.

Specifically, each of independent Claims 17, 22 and 27 recite that in the present invention, a controlled apparatus which is controlled by a remote control apparatus and receives remote control signals therefrom, selects either itself or a second controlled apparatus as a destination of a command corresponding to a received remote control signal. The command is transmitted to the second controlled apparatus if the second controlled apparatus is selected. A representative embodiment of the invention, illustrating this sequence of operation, is shown in Figures 1 and 6 of the present application.

Garr and Osakabe are not seen to disclose or to suggest such an arrangement. Garr describes a control system in which a plurality of controlled apparatuses 12, 16 and 20 is controlled using a single remote control apparatus 28. In this system, a remote control signal from the remote control apparatus is received by a decoder 26 and is

converted into a control signal of a format corresponding to a destination apparatus of the received remote control signal. The decoder 26 then transmits the converted remote control signal to the destination apparatus corresponding thereto, as described by Garr at column 5, lines 25 to 27. Garr further describes that the controlled apparatus 12 may also incorporate the decoder 26. Whatever the arrangement, however the converted remote control signal is transmitted from the decoder to a specific one of the controlled apparatuses, as determined by decoder 26. Garr does not indicate that any of its controlled apparatuses itself receives the remote control signal from the remote control apparatus, and thereafter makes a determination as to the destination of the signal with a subsequent transmission of it from the controlled apparatus to a second controlled apparatus.

Osakabe has been reviewed, but is not seen to disclose anything of pertinence to the above discussion.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein define subject matter that would not have been obvious over any permissible combination of Garr and Osakabe. Allowance of Claims 17 to 31 is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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